

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL DUBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2281

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, SF (TRANSKEI)

SUBJECT: TWO CHIEFS REFUSE TRANSKEI STATE PRESIDENCY

REF: 75 DUBAN A-84

1. SUMMARY: TWO TRANSKEI PARAMOUNT CHIEFS REPORTEDLY HAVE DECLINED OFFERS FROM CHIEF MINISTER MANTANZIMA TO ASSUME TRANSKEI STATE PRESIDENCY FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE. A CANDIDATE IS STILL BEING SOUGHT. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST CHIEF TO REFUSE WAS BOTHA SIQCAU, PARAMOUNT CHIEF OF EASTERN PONDOS AND FATHER OF CURRENT TRANSKEI INTERIOR MINISTER STELLA SIQCAU. POST WAS INFORMED BY BILL KRIGE, SUNDAY TRIBUNE'S TRANSKEI REPORTER, THAT SIQCAU TURNED DOWN POST AFTER BEING PRESSURED BY HIS DAUGHTER AND BY TRANSKEI MINISTER OF HEALTH JEREMY MOSHESH. STELLA SIQCAU APPARENTLY WAS MOTIVATED TO WITHHOLD FATHER'S PARTICIPATION AS MEANS OF DEVELOPING LEVERAGE FOR GREATER PONDO PARTICIPATION IN TK GOVERNMENT. MOSHESH IS TOKEN CABINET MEMBER OF MINORITY SOTHO POPULATION MANY OF WHOM ARE RESISTING XHOSA DOMINATION IN TRANSKEI (REFAIR). OPPOSITION OF BOTH TO MANTAZIMA'S OFFER THUS HAS TRIBAL BASIS.

3. SECOND CHIEF TO REFUSE STATE PRESIDENCY IS TEMBU PARAMOUNT CHIEF SABATA DALINDYEDO. (N.B. THESE TEMBUS NOT TO BE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFUSED WITH THE SMALLER TEMBU GROUP TO WHICH THE

MANTANZIMAS THEMSELVES BELONG.) DALINDYEDO IS A MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OPPOSING MANTANZIMA AND BASES HIS REFUSAL OF STATE PRESIDENCY ON OPPOSITION TO TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE. AT A RECENT PUBLIC MEETING, DALINDYEDO PLEDGED TO CONTINUE HIS OPPOSITION TO TK INDEPENDENCE AND PREDICTED THE TRANSKEI WOULD BE BUT A "PONDOKKIE" (FIGURATIVE AFRIKAANS FOR "ONE HORSE TOWN") AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

4. COMMENT: THE TK CONSTITUTION DOES NOT REQUIRE THE STATE PRESIDENT TO BE A PARAMOUNT CHIEF BUT MANTANZIMA APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT IN THE TRANSKEI'S TRADITION-BOUND SOCIETY ONLY SUCH A FIGURE WILL HAVE THE PRESTIGE NECESSARY TO FUNCTION AS THE COUNTRY'S SYMBOLIC HEAD. DESPITE THE EVIDENCE OF TRIBAL RIVALRIES, POST BELIEVES ONE OF THE PARAMOUNT CHIEFS EVENTUALLY WILL ACCEPT STATE PRESIDENCY AND ITS ACCOMPANYING PERQUISITES - A SUBSTANTIAL SALARY AND RESIDENCE. MANTANZIMA DOUBTLESS WILL BE FORCED TO MAKE SOME POLITICAL CONCESSION TO WHATEVER TRIBAL GROUP WHOSE CHIEF ACCEPTS THE POSITION.
FARBER

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